



SOMERVILLE BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone

Community Representatives:

*Alex Epstein, Chairman
Charles Denison, Vice Chairman
*Ken Carlson, Secretary
*Ariel Horowitz
*Enid Kumin
*Alan Moore
Brian Postlewaite
Tim Talun
Tegin Teich
*= in attendance

Ex-Officio:

Daniel Hadley, Office of the Mayor
Mark Niedergang, Board of Aldermen
Commissioner Stanley Koty, Department of Public Works
Terry Smith, Traffic and Parking
Deputy Chief Michael Cabral, Police Department
*Sarah Spicer, Office of Strategic Planning + Community Development

November Bike Committee

Day/Date: Thursday, November 20th, 2014

Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Location: City Hall 3rd Floor Conference Room

Procedural Business:

1. Acting Secretary: Ariel Horowitz
2. Guest introductions
 - Ye Yao
 - Keith Martinez
 - Lauren Clayton
 - Connor Ring
 - Andrew Churchill (high school representative)
 - Ian Woloschin
 - Alex Anderson
 - Brian Acker Housman
 - Tom Lamar
 - Charles Karslian
 - Hector Gates
3. **VOTE: Approve Minutes: October 2014** Minutes were unanimously approved.

New Business [15 min]

1. Bike theft prevention strategies inquiry
 - a. The question was raised, what more can be done to prevent and track bike theft on the institutional level? A guest asked about bike registrations and the cross jurisdictional issues were discussed.
 - b. **ACTION:** Sarah will resend email from concerned citizen.
 - c. **ACTION:** Committee will choose a month to discuss this in depth.
2. It was brought to the Committee's attention that the MBTA has received a grant to rebuild the sea wall in Charlestown near the bus garage, in an area where DCR plans to build bike trail. **Action:**

Sarah will look into whether or not the two groups are communicating on this issue.

3. Ian displayed a picture of a Somerville Fire Dept. SUV parked without hazards in a bike lane on Somerville ave. After asking the City through their official facebook page, they said they would look into it but have not followed up. Sarah requested ongoing 311 call or email to alert the city to these issues.
4. PN²K MIT bike safety organization
PN²K is an organization that was setup in memory of an MIT alum who died in a bike-truck crash 3 years ago. Their focus is on education, bike safety, and youth empowerment. They came to the meeting to discuss ways that they can coordinate with SBC to promote bike safety. There are two parts to the organization: a foundation and a chapter at MIT. The MIT chapter was established within the last several months and has organized or been a part of several events promoting helmet usage, light usage, etc., with several hundred attendees. PN²K's specific concerns about Somerville are that MIT students often have difficulty finding the best/safest routes between Kendall, Inman, and Union squares. While the city is doing a study as a preliminary step towards implementing wayfinding signage, this does not directly address PN²K's questions about the safety of specific intersections, etc. Sarah suggested that SBC members could perhaps attend/table at PN²K as well as suggesting a collaborative "newbies to the city" ride. Enid asked if PN²K could canvas its members to determine if they have specific concerns. Alex suggested that PN²K prompt people to enter their common routes on a google or wiki map. Ian mentioned that a similar map was made in Cambridge. PN²K suggested that hubway data also be used. PN²K mentioned that a representative from the office of the president of MIT suggested that PN²K form a collaborative committee between MIT, Cambridge, and possibly Somerville and/or other local universities, which is an idea PN²K would like to pursue.

Events, education and outreach:

1. High school representative welcome and discussion (Ariel)
Andrew Churchill, the new high school representative, introduced himself. He bikes to his job and school, year round. In his observations, a very small percentage of students bike to Somerville High School. Many students get rides from their parents, while others walk or rely on the MBTA bus system (the school does not run buses). Andrew and the Committee had many ideas for promoting cycling among the high school population, among them: a peloton could be led by the Committee to help interested novice cyclists learn routes and gain confidence; a way could be found to supply locks to students to ameliorate concerns about bicycle theft; a Committee representative could visit the fitness class to talk about biking in Somerville; a bike repair clinic could be held at the high school in March or April, with the involvement of a local bike shop and/or the high school's vocational program; Bike to School Day could be promoted during Bike Week in May. Alex also suggested Andrew getting involved in the establishment of a neighborway between Davis Square and the high school.
2. SCATV Bay State Biking News plan for participation
The possibility of Committee members taking a regular guest spot on SCATV Bay State Biking News, as requested last month, was discussed. It was decided that if the Committee were to do so, it should be after minutes are publicly available. Ken suggested we report once a quarter, recapping the past 3 months and giving a preview of coming events. Ken mentions that the videos can be linked on SBC's social media sites, etc. Ariel suggests an agenda item of coming up with talking points beforehand. The Committee will discuss further with tentative plans to start reports in early 2015.
ACTION: Ken will check with Vaughn re our idea of quarterly reports
3. Illuminations Tour on Saturday, December 13
PN²K will cross promote, as will Andrew at the high school.
ACTION: Andrew will publicize the event at the high school.

4. Whole Foods monthly walk/ride breakfasts
Breakfasts are paused during November and December for the holidays. They will resume (indoors) in January. It was suggested that Facebook promotion and possible postering be used to compensate for lack of actual visibility.
5. Hubway art bike unveiling, Thursday, 10/23--recap (Sarah)
Sarah was unable to attend but informed the Committee that the art bike is an homage to the emerald necklace system and can be anywhere in the Hubway system, so look out for it!
6. Cranksgiving
Ken notified the Committee about the Cranksgiving scavenger hunt, scheduled for Saturday the 22nd, starting at 1 pm in Copley.
7. Beacon St. Detour Map
A map of the official SBC suggested Beacon St. detour route is now on the Committee's unofficial website, along with printable turn-by-turn directions. Beacon St. is presently in a difficult to navigate state and will continue to be so for the next two years. As a result, the Committee requests that if possible the construction lighting on the street be enhanced. Sarah will investigate whether this is feasible. For December or next appropriate month, agenda item will be added to get a comprehensive update on Beacon St. Sarah will either invite Hayes to the meeting or will get an update from her when appropriate.

Infrastructure:

1. Lowell Street traffic calming update
The installation of the chicane on Lowell St. has shown a decrease in traffic speed and a minor decrease in speeding (not many motorists had exceeded the speed limit to begin with). There is no room on the street for a cycle track, buffered bike lane, etc. The chicane will stay on the road at this point. An additional crosswalk is being investigated.
2. Community Path Cedar-Lowell status (Sarah)
The opening of the path extension has been delayed until spring due to onset of cold weather, which has prevented MassDOT from completing installation of some surfaces, the access ramp to Lowell St., etc. The decision to delay opening was made by MassDOT.
3. Green Lanes
No new lanes have been installed since the last meeting, but the Committee still has questions on the communication between T&P and SBC. The green lanes initiative is complementary to expanding the network of bike lanes, not as a substitute. Moving forward, T&P + OSPCD will still follow a policy of taking a list of requests from SBC. As such, given the advent of the green lane program, SBC will begin adding requests for new green lanes to the list. Concerns had been raised about the texture of the paint but the city has not received any complaints. In the future, the budget for painting lanes will come out of the new, specific bike and ped improvements budget (\$200,000) which also will go towards bike parking. Enid reiterated a request for prompt notification when these projects are undertaken, to which Sarah responded that there will hopefully be more lead time in the future, but notification is not always possible. Ken requested that Terry attend a couple of meetings every year when infrastructure will be a large topic of discussion, or that, instead, the Committee can send emissaries to Terry once a quarter to get updates to bring to the Committee at large.
4. Bikeability Audit with Massbike (Alan)
Alan did an audit with Massbike in the area around the Winter Hill school, high school, etc. to identify areas for possible improvement. The resulting report from MassDOT is not yet public.
5. Central Broadway Streetscape Improvements project (Sarah)
The results of the charrette are being compiled and the Committee will discuss them in December.
6. Casino bike/ped bridge to Everett, post election
The environmental vetting process is beginning, offering the Committee the opportunity to write and submit a position letter. The Committee will reach out to Ron about contributing to an initial

draft, and will also look into getting the mayor involved. The letter will likely need to be submitted in January. As such, the Committee will discuss the draft report on bike/ped bridge options from 4-5 years ago at the December meeting.

7. Davis Square Streetscape Improvements--

Sarah will send the plans for this intersection to the Committee or bring to next meeting.

New agenda items for December:

- SCATV news reports
- Beacon St. update
- Central Broadway Streetscape update
- Discuss draft report on casino bike/ped bridge
- Annual report planning -- accomplishments of 2014 and goals for 2015!